



Connecticut Alliance of City Police

Senate Bill 464
Finance Committee
Public Hearing: 3/28/16

Please Oppose Senate Bill 464 -- AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE HARTFORD FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

The Connecticut Alliance of City Police (CACAP) is an organization whose members are 900 men and women who serve as sworn police officers in various Connecticut cities.

Some of our members are police officers in the City of Waterbury. Several years ago, the Legislature enacted a law for Waterbury that was similar to the law proposed in Senate Bill 464. The immediate result to the Waterbury Police Department was the loss of more than a third of the department. Every other bargaining unit in the city saw a similar loss of dedicated city employees. By ignoring and excluding the needs and interests of employees, the city lost decades of institutional knowledge and a quality of leadership that it has not yet been able to replace. Workers were improperly excluded from discussing and negotiating the best future for Waterbury; and the city is still suffering negative effects of that law.

We respectfully OPPOSE Senate Bill 464 for the following reasons:

The bill seems to close-down many of the democratic procedures, by vesting an enormous amount of power in the new Financial Stability Commission; and at the same time the proposal seems to decrease the authority of the duly elected officials who serve on the Hartford City Council and the Hartford Board of Education.

The bill also attempts to re-open and re-examine the benefits that have been earned by city retirees. The employees have always negotiated in good faith. They have always held up their end of agreements by making required contributions to retirement funds and for medical benefits.

The bill seems to force labor union members, notwithstanding the union's internal rules, to appear before the State Labor Board to consider and vote upon the Financial Stability Commission's proposals on collective bargaining issues.

The bill provides an incredibly large amount of authority and control to the Financial Stability Commission to control the collective bargaining process; and then make the ultimate decisions on collective bargaining issues.

Thank you for your opposition to Senate Bill 464. The Hartford Elected Officials should work with the city employees to address financial issues. The Legislature should not have to enact a law to do so.

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